

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to show every feature of the claimed invention. More specifically, the Examiner indicates that the drawings fail to show a resistor having first and second ends to which metal contacts are formed and the delimitation structure defining a width of the resistor between the first and second ends. Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

First, with respect to the claim language relating to “a resistor having first and second ends to which metal contacts are formed,” Applicants direct the Examiner’s attention to Figure 17. Figure 17 is a cross-sectional view which illustrates a resistor 21 along its length extending from a first end (adjacent the left hand side isolation 17) to a second end (adjacent the right hand side isolation 17). Figure 17 still further illustrates metal contacts 28, at the first (left) and second (right) ends, respectively, of the resistor 21. These contacts 28 are electrically connected to the first and second ends of the resistor 21 through the openings 30 provided at the first (left) and second (right) ends. Applicants accordingly submit that the claim language recited above is fully supported by the drawings.

Second, with respect to the claim language relating to “the delimitation structure defining a width of the resistor between the first and second ends,” Applicants direct the Examiner’s attention to Figures 9a and 16. Figure 16 is a top view which illustrates the resistor 21 having a length extending from a first end (at the bottom of the figure adjacent isolation 17) to a second end (at the top of the figure adjacent isolation 17). Figures 9a and 16 further show a delimitation structure 20 (made of opposed sections 20a and 20b). In the area of the resistor 21, the opposed sections 20a of the delimitation structure 20 are separated by a distance “L” (see, paragraph 20)

which defines a width of the resistor 21, wherein that distance “L” is shown to be located between the first and second ends. The length of the transistor 21 extends in the direction perpendicular to the distance “L” (as is shown in Figure 17). Applicants accordingly submit that the claim language recited above is fully supported by the drawings.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 11-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. More specifically, the Examiner asserted that the language “the delimitation structure defining a width of the resistor between the first and second ends” was unclear. It is apparently a concern over whether the delimitation structure defines a length of the resistor. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

First, Applicants note that the length of the resistor 21 is defined by the placement of the isolation structures 17 (see, dotted outline 21 in Figure 16). Along that possible length of the resistor 21, the width of the resistor is substantially defined by the opposed sections 20a of the delimitation structure 20 which are separated by a distance “L” (see, paragraph 20 and dotted outline 21 in Figure 16). Thus, there is no question that the recited claim language concerning “the delimitation structure defining a width of the resistor between the first and second ends” is fully supported by the specification and drawings of the application.

Second, the Examiner appears to be asking whether the Applicants intended to claim that the delimitation structure defines a “length,” as opposed to the width, of the resistor 21. Such is not the case. It was Applicants’ intention, in choosing the claim language “the delimitation

structure defining a width of the resistor between the first and second ends” to in fact claim the width which is the distance “L” (see, paragraph 20) shown in Figure 9a.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim language is not indefinite. Applicants have clearly and distinctly claimed the aspect of the invention as shown in Figure 9a wherein the opposed sections 20a of the delimitation structure 20 define a width of the resistor 21 between its first and second ends as shown by the separation distance “L”. Withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection is requested.

Thus, Applicants submit that claims 17-22 and 36-37 are allowable over the art of record.

Claims 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stucchi.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite “a silicide layer formed over the delimitation structure which does not electrically contact the resistor region.” Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 11 is in condition for favorable action and allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 17.

Claims 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stucchi in view of Leibiger.

Claim 32 has been amended to recite “a silicided layer formed on the delimiter structure without being in electrical contact with the metal contacts of the resistor.” Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed silicided layer.

Claim 33 has been amended to recite “a silicided delimitation structure on top of said active area that delimits a width of said resistive region but is not in electrical contact with the resistive region.” Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed silicided delimitation structure.

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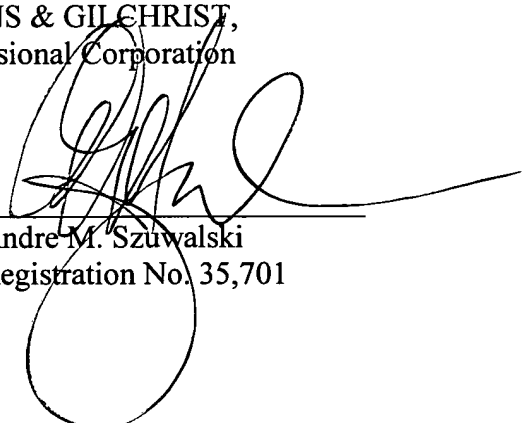
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Docket No. 61179-3USPX

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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